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Digest and Chat

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THINGS OLD *(FROM OUR TEACHING ARCHIVES)* AND THINGS NEW *(FROM PRESENT TEACHINGS AND CURRENT EVENTS)*.

Our message this time from: **Leland Earls**

Due to increasingly serious world conditions, we are continuing to review the prophetic teachings of Leland Earls. We cannot stress enough the importance of a working knowledge of the Scriptures, and a healthy relationship with the Author of our faith – our soon returning Lord Jesus.

"...My words shall not pass away.

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and CARES OF THIS LIFE, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Luke 21:33-36

Are You Willing to be a Ferment?

BY LELAND EARLS

It is very thrilling, but also very sobering, to realize that God is moving by His Spirit in this very day in which we live to REVEAL unto His servants that which is shortly to come to pass. Truly the Lord is FAITHFUL in that which He has promised. For, we read in ***Amos 3:7:***

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."

Dare we believe that this Scripture is TRUE? Is God revealing Himself and His plan? Judge for yourself as you read the following messages. Surely God's unfolding purpose for the consummation of this age is being made known to us more clearly as we are able to receive it.

"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are REVEALED belong unto us and to our children forever...."

Deuteronomy 29:29

Are you willing to be a ferment of righteousness in these last days? According to the dictionary, a "ferment" is any substance whose *presence in another body* produces the peculiar effervescence and decomposition called fermentation; commotion; heat; tumult; agitation. Fermentation is a chemical process which causes decomposition or *conversion* of an organic substance into *new* compounds in the presence of a ferment, generally indicated by a *sensible internal motion*, the development of heat, and the liberation of bubbles of gas; in common language, the process by which grape juice is converted into wine.

Jesus said, ***"No man putteth new wine into old bottles** (wineskins)" **(Mk. 2:22).*** This is because the "ferment-

ing" action of the new wine is too much for the already stretched and "rigid" condition of the old wineskin. New wine is that which is still in the process of fermentation, not having yet become a "mature" wine. From one perspective, new wine is a type of NEW TRUTH. A called-out remnant is being prepared as a NEW vessel or wineskin to receive the TRUTHS and WORKINGS OF THE SPIRIT too potent for the average Christian and church group. Each one must become a NEW VESSEL unto the Lord, completely flexible to what the Lord wants to reveal TO us or to do IN us.

JESUS SAID, *"NO MAN PUTTETH NEW WINE INTO OLD BOTTLES (WINESKINS)" (MK. 2:22).* THIS IS BECAUSE THE "FERMENTING" ACTION OF THE NEW WINE IS TOO MUCH FOR THE ALREADY STRETCHED AND "RIGID" CONDITION OF THE OLD WINE SKIN.

What happens when the Lord begins to reveal new truth to you? It begins a process of "fermentation" within you. It disrupts ideas or concepts that you had previously held to. Like leaven, it is a "substance" within, which produces an effervescence and decomposition (of the old), *breaking down, restructuring* and *elevating*, readying for His Spirit-FIRE to do the final work. This "work" continues until that truth has become "mature" in us. Like "mature" wine it is then incorruptible, purifying and lasting. New wine will either ferment properly and become a mature wine, or it will sour and turn to vinegar. So with new truth in us; it will either do its proper fermentation in us and MATURE us or it will turn us SOUR, depending on our readiness or lack of it. Most of us are SLOW to receive that which is new to us. It takes TIME for the new truth to do its "work" and to finally "mature" in us. In the meantime we may experience a lot of "fermenting" action within.

FIRSTFRUITS & HARVEST. . .

And now for a few comments on the "firstfruits." Remember that according to the Bible PATTERN, the firstfruits were that part of the harvest which *ripened first* and preceded the main harvest. The "firstfruits" are divided into two groupings: (1) the "firstfruits" which shall be taken out preceding the main harvest, and (2) the first ripe of the Lord's harvest which shall be *left in the earth to act as a ferment* of righteousness and truth till all lumps are fully prepared during the main harvest.

Again when we go to the Bible PATTERN we find that the "firstfruits" were *especially dedicated* to God and as it was faithfully presented to Him, it was the *guarantee* of the rest of the harvest. In ***Leviticus 23:10-12*** we find instructions for a "sheaf" of the firstfruits to be represented to the Lord in a special ceremony at the Passover season at the beginning of the barley harvest. In this special presentation they *did not* pluck out *all* of the first ripe grain, but only a "sheaf" OF the firstfruits ***(Lev. 23:10)*** which was "cut OUT" of the harvest field and BROUGHT TO THE PRIEST to be "waved" before the Lord. Josephus, the great Jewish historian, says that this sheaf was of barley, and that until this ceremony had been performed, no harvest work was to be done.

I personally believe this "wave sheaf" is the "manchild" of ***Revelation 12:5*** which is "caught up" to the Throne of God *preceding* the 3½ years of "wilderness" Tribulation. It is also represented by the 144,000 of ***Revelation 14:1-5*** who are described as ***"the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."*** There is very special reason why this "sheaf" *of* the firstfruits is taken out (translated and given glorified bodies) BEFORE the Tribulation. Having received their glorified bodies, we can see how they could perform such "messenger service" just as our Lord did after He was raised from the dead as He continued to appear and speak to the Disciples in His glorified body for a period of 40 days ***(Acts 1:3)***. ***Revelation 12:6*** says that this "firstfruits manchild" shall "feed" the church in the wilderness.

In contrast to the "firstfruits" to be taken out, note the "firstripe" of His harvest which shall be *left in the earth* to act as a *ferment* of righteousness and truth till all lumps are fully prepared...for there shall be three lumps prepared. These three lumps are to be brought forth to *final fruition* during the 3½ year Tribulation period which is the time of the final great harvest of human souls upon the earth. The "firstfruits remnant" which God is now calling and preparing (with the exception of the "sheaf" to be taken out) WILL BECOME the "ferment" left in the earth to do the work. Even *now* a measure of this work is being done, and we must be willing to become a "fermenting-effervescing" (bubbling, lively and sometimes even agitating) substance within the larger body of Christendom; not by some "fleshly" methods, but by the power of the Word of God and the working of His Spirit.

We are to be like the woman in the parable recorded in ***Matthew 13:33*** who took and hid leaven (ferment) in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. The leaven in this instance represents the truth which becomes the "ferment" to do the work. And *as a woman* who desires to see come forth from the oven the fullness of that which she hath kneaded and prepared, so will God give His people

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the *desire* and the *means* to be a *ferment* among His people, to bring forth three lumps in these last days. The final and complete fulfillment will be by the "woman in the wilderness" of ***Revelation 12:6*** AFTER the "manchild" is caught up to the Throne of God. The woman is protected ***"from the face of the serpent" (Rev. 12:14)*** during the Tribulation time, that she might accomplish her work and be a "leavening" influence.

Three measures. . .

In the parable in ***Matthew 13:33***, the woman "leavens" *three measures*. The "lumps" would represent the "measures" of meal AFTER the leaven of the Word of Truth and the fire of God's Spirit had done the necessary work. The three "lumps" to be brought forth in these last days represent the 30, 60 and 100-fold groupings of Christians. The 100-fold shall be "joint-heirs" with Christ to "rule and reign" within the glories of the celestial (heavenly) kingdom, and over the earth. As the *firstfruits* which were taken beforehand (the *first* of the 100-fold group), so will they be taken in that day to be unto the Lord a helpmeet in the Heavenlies as He seeks to conform all things to His own realm....

The 60-fold is the second lump which shall see the Lord's glory, but shall not enter into the glories of the celestial kingdom. It will be their lot to enter that which is earthly in fullness of physical stature and perfection – deathless life or immortality in physical (terrestrial) bodies instead of glorified (celestial) bodies ***(I Cor. 15:40)***.

The 30-fold is the lump of "third class" citizens who will be cast out (into Tribulation conditions) because of their folly and will have to endure much hardship and suffering, for ***"there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*** They will partake of the scourge and not receive the completeness of protection in that day. I believe, however, that if they "endure" in faith to the end of the Tribulation period ***(Matt. 13:13)***, God will save or preserve their lives from the vials of His wrath, and they, along with the 60-fold, will inherit the earthly phase of the Kingdom. But, unlike the 60-fold, they will not be immediate candidates for immortality for their physical bodies, but will have to first prove themselves and move up to 60-fold status before their change can come. I believe that some time after the Millennium (1000 years of peace) those who are living in immortal physical bodies will be translated and receive their glorified bodies, for it is not God's purpose for any of His children to remain "clodhoppers" and earthbound forever. All (30-60-100-fold) shall be partakers. The difference is in TIME and in REALM of GLORY. All will eventually be released from the earthly and put on the celestial and heavenly glory in God's time; each to enter that REALM God has chosen for them.

> MANY THINGS HAVE COME UPON THE LAND OF AMERICA, AND WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE JUDGMENTAL "WOES" THAT ARE COMING.

Buying oil...

Many things have come upon the land of America, and what we have seen is just the beginning of the judgmental "woes" that are coming. I will not presume to be able at this point to forecast all that the Lord has in mind. But perhaps developments in the Mid-East are more ominous for our nation than most realize.

There have been at lest two wars between the Jews and Arabs (1967 and 1973). Suddenly the Arabs awoke to the fact that they have the power to cut the jugular vein of the West in their great OIL reserves which the Western nations (including America) need. Leaders of Western nations have warned of the great economic PERIL which the nations of the West are threatened with as the Arabs have chosen to use their oil weapon with astronomically increased prices. It takes little imagination to see how the Arabs will increasingly try to BLACKmail the West into accepting their position against Israel. And without doubt the greatest "consternation" and "PERIL" are going to come to our nation out of the EAST when the final showdown comes in the Mid-East. I do not believe that America will abandon Israel to the destruction of Arab countries.

Who will be protected?

I would like to make a few final comments on the thought that not all Christians will receive the same degree of protection in the Tribulation days ahead; neither will all Christians enter into the same degree of glory and reward in the coming Kingdom. Multitudes of Christians have been lulled into complacency by the sleep-inducing dogma that all Christians will be raptured before any Great Tribulation falls upon the world. I won't take the time here to dispel the darkness of such un-Scriptural teaching, but simply state that the vast majority of Christians will go through the Great Tribulation. Since this is true, it becomes of paramount importance that we let the Lord PREPARE us for the coming days of trouble.

The need to prepare is clearly given by Jesus in ***Luke 12:35-48***. Read the whole passage and note that Jesus is dealing with conditions related to His Second Coming. It is very clear that servants of His who get careless and are not making themselves ready will have different treatment than those who are keeping themselves in tune with the Lord and doing His will. ***Verse***

47 states emphatically that the servant who knew the Lord's will but did not PREPARE himself, shall be "beaten" with many stripes. Remember, the whole passage deals with end-time conditions, and the "many stripes" are without doubt a symbolic description of the buffeting trials and circumstances of the Tribulation without the completeness of the Lord's protection. Fewer stripes will be given those who had less understanding of the Lord's will, but they will STILL receive "stripes" in the Tribulation conditions *(vs. 48)*. I believe it will be primarily the 30-fold who will receive these more severe dealings of God rather than the 60 or 100-fold.

In ***Revelation 11:1-2*** we read that John was given a reed like unto a rod to measure the Temple and those that worship therein. The "temple" would refer to the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, which typify the 60 and 100-fold Christians respectively. But John was told not to measure the Outer Court, for it would be given to the Gentiles to be trodden down for 42 months (the Tribulation period). The Outer Court would typify the 30-fold Christian who is too far removed (spiritually) from what the Lord is doing to be measured by the rod (Word of God) and counted among those who will receive the completeness of His protection. The "treading down" by the Gentiles would symbolically correspond to the "many stripes" of ***Luke 12:47***.

Further indications of Christians to be "chastised" by Tribulation conditions is found in ***Revelation 2:22*** and ***3:16***. I won't take time to explain in detail now, but in each of the last 4 of the letters to the 7 churches of Asia, is a reference to either the coming of the Lord or to the Great Tribulation. This indicates that what arose within the Church during the historical periods represented by these churches continues to the end. In this end-time, every Christian will be partaking of or experiencing the spiritual conditions symbolically pictured in one of these churches: either the spiritual "idolatry" and "fornication" of the Thyatira church, the "deadness" of the Sardis church, the faithfulness, purity and power of the Philadelphia church, or the pride, complacency and lukewarmness of the Laodicean church.

> THE OUTER COURT WOULD TYPIFY THE 30-FOLD CHRISTIAN WHO IS TOO FAR REMOVED (SPIRITUALLY) FROM WHAT THE LORD IS DOING TO BE MEASURED BY THE ROD (WORD OF GOD) AND COUNTED AMONG THOSE WHO WILL RECEIVE THE COMPLETENESS OF HIS PROTECTION.

Look at ***Revelation 2:21-23***, where Jesus commands those of Thyatira to repent or He will "cast them into great tribulation" (to receive "many stripes" or even to be killed by the Tribulation conditions). Lest some think He is not talking about Christians here, He declares in ***verse 23*** that He will do these things that ***"all the churches shall know that I am He which searches the reins and hearts; and I will give unto everyone of you according to your works."*** In other words, He is not dealing with the question of eternal salvation, but of works (obedience or lack of it) and the necessity of "chastening" through Tribulation conditions, because of unwillingness to repent. In the letter to the lukewarm Laodicean church, Jesus emphasized this with these words:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent."

Revelation 3:19

Remember, He is talking to the church and not to the world.

To the same Laodicean church He declares:

"Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth."

Revelation 3:16

Spue them out where? No doubt, into the Great Tribulation to receive the necessary "stripes," even as those in the Outer Court of ***Revelation 11:2*** are "cast out" (marginal reading) to be "trodden down." In light of these facts, it is no wonder that when teaching about His Second Coming and the related events in the world, Jesus admonished many times of the importance of "watching" and of being prepared.

[See ad page 6.]

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." – Romans 8:19

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Discerning Truth

BY LELAND EARLS

God is moving by His Spirit to bring LIGHT and REVELATION from His Word as never before. Surely we are living in the time spoken of by Daniel the Prophet:

> ***"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."***
>
> ***Daniel 12:4***

The "time of the end" of this age is upon us; therefore we are witnessing the "unsealing" of mysteries unknown to past generations, and "knowledge is increasing" both in the natural and physical realms of man and in the realm of the spiritual things of God.

This does not mean that we should be gullible and accept everything we hear and read, but rather weigh it with a discerning mind seeking to "prove all things" and to "hold fast that which is good" *(I Thess. 1:21)*. Above all, we should heed the admonition found in *Isaiah 8:20:*

> ***"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."***

The WORD OF GOD is always our standard. However, we must continually be willing to re-study and re-examine what we THINK the Bible teaches, realizing that MANY of our past concepts have been the result of our LIMITED capacity to understand, as well as the GROSSNESS of our hearts in not being able to "look beyond" the VEIL to view the full GLORY of the Lord. As the Jews had a "veil" (of unbelief) on their hearts *(I Cor. 3:13-15)* not being able to "LOOK" to the end of that which is abolished (the Old Covenant), so we have had a "veil" on our hearts not being able to fully "LOOK" to the end (consummation) of that which is now being fulfilled (the New Covenant).

When Moses came down from the mount after spending 40 days with God, he had to put a VEIL over his face because the people were unable to view the shining "glory" of his face *(Ex. 34:29-35)*. Thus has it been through many generations. Christ has been speaking to men through His word, but MUCH HAS BEEN VEILED because of our inability to comprehend and receive. But NOW the "veil" is being lifted. More and more glorious light is coming forth from the Lord as He REVEALS (unveils) HIMSELF to us in these last days.

> THE "TIME OF THE END" OF THIS AGE IS UPON US; THEREFORE WE ARE WITNESSING THE "UNSEALING" OF MYSTERIES UNKNOWN TO PAST GENERATIONS, AND "KNOWLEDGE IS INCREASING" BOTH IN THE NATURAL AND PHYSICAL REALMS OF MAN AND IN THE REALM OF THE SPIRITUAL THINGS OF GOD.

God must deal with us as we ARE. Much depends upon our heart-WILLINGNESS to receive and OBEY truth. Jesus said,

> ***"If any man will do his will he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself."***
>
> ***John 7:17***

We must be willing to re-study and re-think all that we have ever believed. And if our hearts are TOO GROSS for us to admit that we have made mistakes and have been in error in many things AND CHANGE OUR THINKING AND ACTING ACCORDINGLY, then the Lord will have to leave us where we are and continne to VEIL much of His truth to us.

Another factor is heart-READINESS. The SOIL of onr heart mnst be "broken up" and prepared to RECEIVE the "good seed" of His Word *(Mk. 4:20-28)*. The Lord many times has to CONDITION us by experience before we are READY to receive more light and understanding. The Lord's word to us is, ***"Break up the fallow ground...and circumcise yourselves to the Lord" (Jer. 4:3-4)***. As Jesus spoke to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, He perceived their lack of readiness to receive and spoke thus: ***"O FOOLS and SLOW OF HEART to believe ALL that the Prophets have spoken" (Lk. 24:25)***. And thus has it been ever since; WE ARE FOOLS, and WE HAVE BEEN *SO SLOW* TO BELIEVE *ALL*. Do I hear a gasp? Too harsh, you say! Are you willing *to be honest with yourself?* Are you willing to let the Lord deal with your heart until you ARE CONDITIONED to "behold with unveiled face the glory of the Lord?"

Jesus said, ***"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matt.***

5:8). Our "seeing" of God (comprehending His reality and truth) is in direct proportion to the "circumcising" of our *hearts*. The GROSSNESS of our hearts has to be "cut away" lest it be fulfilled in us as it was in the Jews of Jesus' day;

> ***"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed."***
>
> ***Matthew 13:15***

God said to Moses who wanted to SEE the Lord: ***"Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me, and live" (Ex. 33:20)***. What is true in this statement PHYSICALLY is also true SPIRITUALLY. We (the carnal self-life) *CANNOT LIVE* if we are to "see" God. The more we "see" of God, the more of our SELF LIFE has to *DIE*.

There is no occasion of BOASTING when we realize that God has had to hide us in the cleft of the rock (JESUS) and has had to COVER US with His HAND OF MERCY, while He has passed by and we have "seen" but A LITTLE PORTION of His Being ***(Ex. 33:21-23)***. But the more we are willing to DIE (to self) the *more* of His Glory (light – truth) shall be revealed to us. Increasingly we shall "see" the ***"light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Cor. 4:6)***.

What is presented herein is with the realization that as yet we ***"know in part"*** and ***"see through a glass darkly" (I Cor. 13:1-12)***. All of us are still walking in some error, but we should DESIRE above everything to KNOW THE TRUTH, for ***"The truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32)***. One *truth* which we must all be willing to confess is that found in ***I Corinthians 8:2:***

> ***"If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."***

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In regard to many things that may be new to us we have to follow the example of Mary who ***"kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (Lk. 2:19)***.

I believe one more thought should be added. What about our heart-MOTIVES? Jesus said,

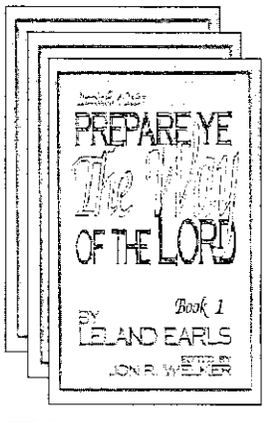
> ***"He who speaks from himself seeks his own honor; but he who seeks his sender's honor is sincere and in him there is no deceit."***
>
> ***John 7:18*** *(BERKELEY)*

If we are seeking our own honor in one way or another then we can be sure that what we speak tends to come "from (out of) ourselves." But if we have no ambition or desire but to seek the honor and glory of the One Who "sent" us, then out of a "sincere" heart will come that which is without "deceit" (falsehood).

But WHO can honestly say that he knows his own heart perfectly, and that his motives are completely without any "taint" of self? We can only PRAY that God will keep us free from the beguiling influences of our own deceitful hearts, and from the corrupting desire to "please" others. None of us are immune from the "wiles" of the evil one in his attempt to inflate our ego and infuse us with the "spirit" of those of Babel: ***"Let us build a city and a tower...let us make a name*** *(for ourselves)* ***" (Gen. 11:4)***.

If we want to keep hearing from God, and speak only that which He would have us speak, then IN US must be fulfilled the words of ***Isaiah 66:2:***

> ***"I will look favorably upon that man who is humble, feels crushed in spirit, and trembles at My word."***
>
> *(BERKELEY)*



ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE EXCERPTED FROM...

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

by LELAND EARLS

- *ARE YOU ABLE TO DISCERN THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES?*
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